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The President's Daily Brief

February 18, 1976



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Top Secret^{25X1}

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Table of Contents

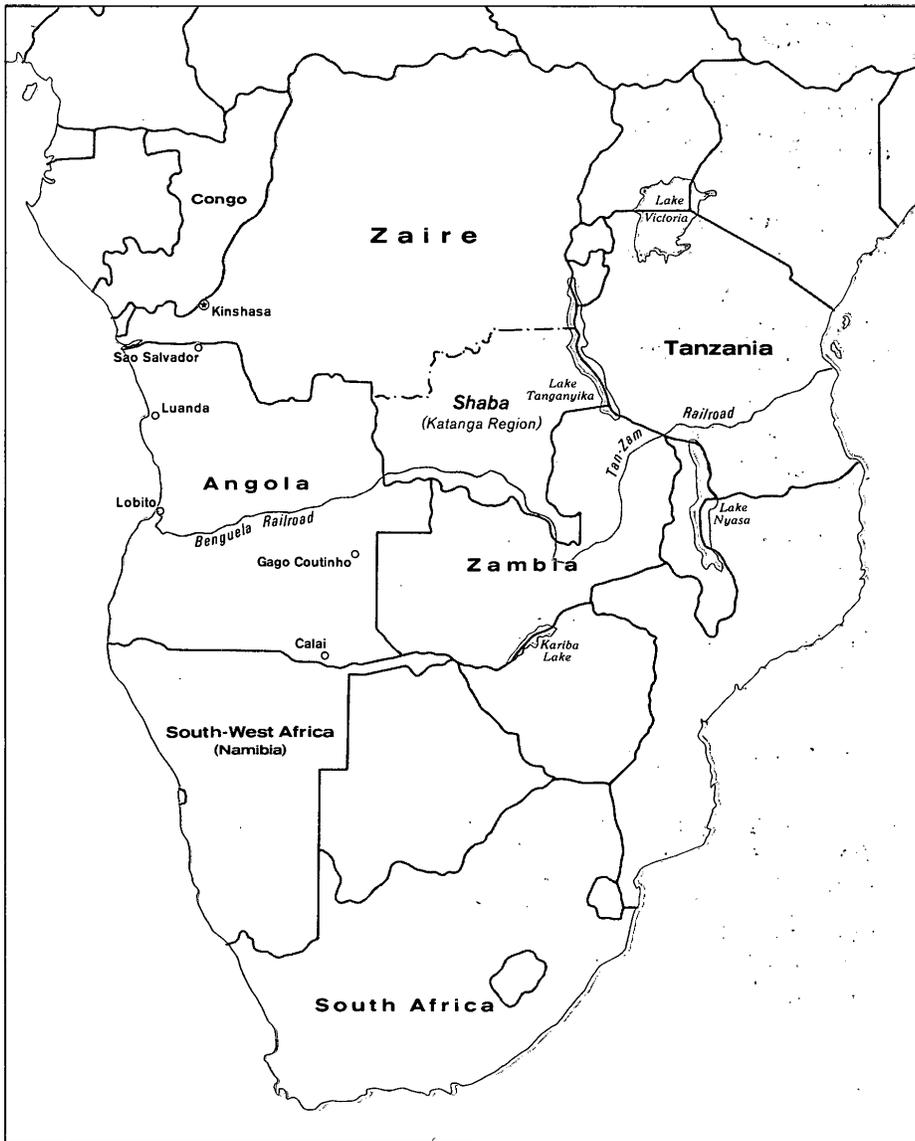
Zaire-Angola: A high official of the Angolan Popular Movement is scheduled to visit Kinshasa on Saturday to discuss Zairian recognition of the regime in Luanda. (Page 1)

Iceland-UK: The Icelandic cabinet voted yesterday to break diplomatic relations with the UK. (Page 3)

Notes: USSR; France-EC; France-USSR; Morocco-Algeria (Pages 4 and 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Southern Africa



ZAIRE-ANGOLA

The prime minister of the Angolan Popular Movement's regime is scheduled to visit Kinshasa on Saturday to discuss terms for recognition by Zaire.

The official [redacted] will be carrying an answer from Popular Movement President Neto to Zaire's now-public conditions for recognition. The conditions were passed privately to the Popular Movement over the weekend, following a meeting in Kinshasa between President Mobutu and Congolese President Ngouabi. Ngouabi has long supported the Popular Movement and was acting as its intermediary with Mobutu.

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Mobutu wants guarantees that the Popular Movement will take no aggressive actions against Zaire. He may ask for a withdrawal of Cuban and Soviet forces in Angola, but will likely settle for a withdrawal of combat forces alone. Mobutu's other desires include:

--Return to Zaire of some 4,000 exiled secessionists from Shaba (formerly Katanga). These secessionists fled Zaire in 1963 and have been fighting with the Popular Movement in the hope that the Movement would support insurgency in Shaba.

--Access to the Benguela railroad and the port of Lobito, the most efficient route for Zaire's imports and exports.

--Arrangements for the Popular Movement to accept some 1 million Angolan refugees who have fled to Zaire.

Neto, for his part, will want assurances that Mobutu will not underwrite guerrilla operations into northern Angola by the National Front. In fact, the National Front withdrew over the weekend from Sao Salvador, its last major base in the area. With the exception of a few mercenaries and a small group of its own troops near the Zairian border, the National Front has fully retreated into Zaire.

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In southern Angola, National Union President Savimbi has established his headquarters at the town of Gago Coutinho [REDACTED]

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Savimbi's ability to wage effective guerrilla warfare depends to a large extent on whether Zaire and South Africa continue to aid him. South Africa is now exploring the possibility of an accommodation with the Popular Movement. The South Africans are responding to a recent statement by the Popular Movement foreign minister that his regime "would be prepared to cooperate" with South Africa if Pretoria recognizes the Movement's sovereignty over Angola.

ICELAND-UK

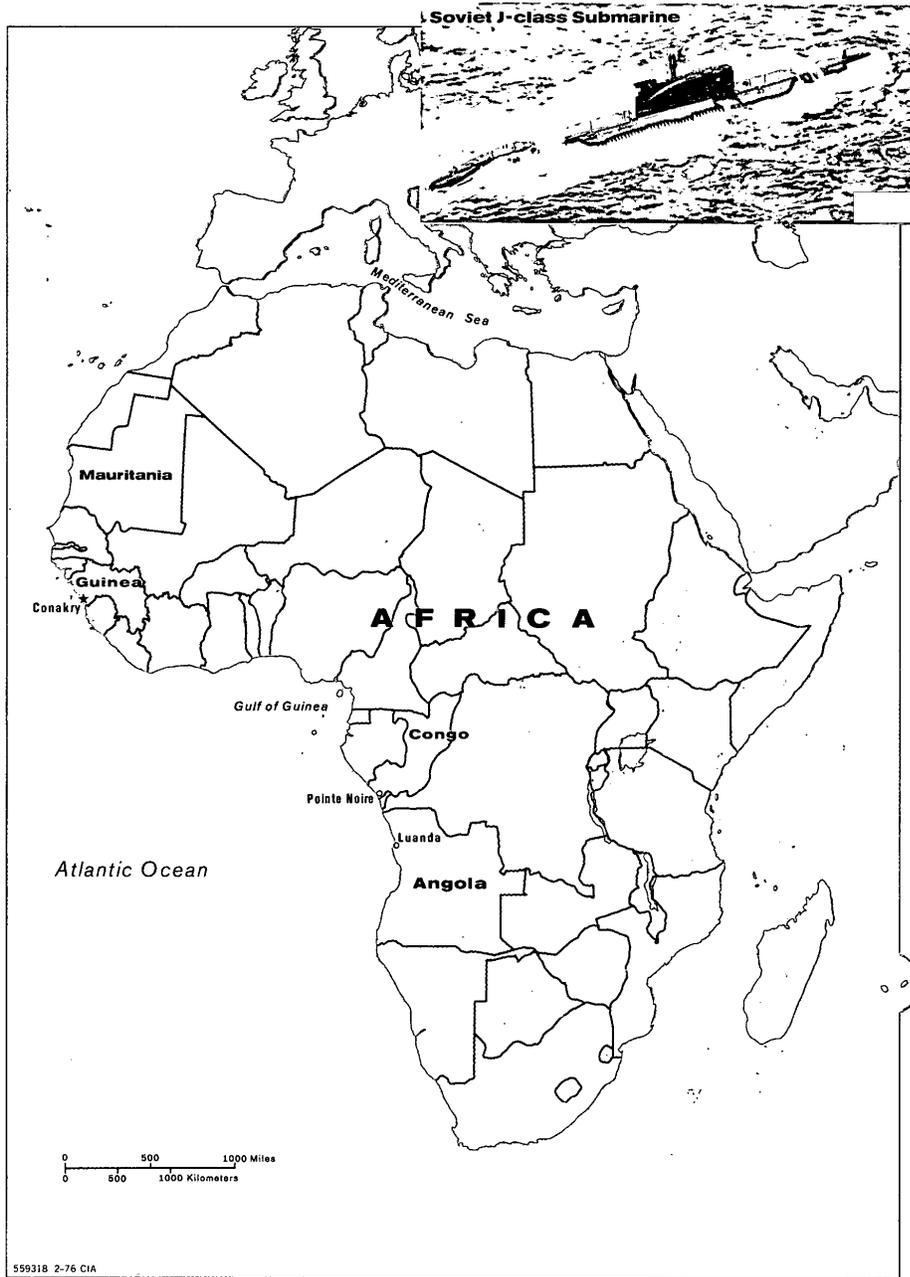
The cabinet voted yesterday to break diplomatic relations with the UK. It will act today or tomorrow.

A motion also to withdraw Iceland's NATO delegation from Brussels was narrowly defeated. The motion was introduced by the leader of the Progressive Party, a member of the governing coalition. Foreign Minister Agustsson broke with other Progressives and voted against the proposal.

Prime Minister Hallgrimsson had worked hard to head off a break with London. His political position has been badly weakened, and he may be out of office soon.

If the coalition government falls, it would almost certainly be replaced by a leftist coalition. Then, withdrawal from NATO would be all but certain.

Hallgrimsson is also faced with the most extensive general strike in Icelandic history. He has been so occupied with the cod war that he has been unable to attend to the labor dispute. The break with London and the pressure for withdrawal from NATO will further divert his attention.



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NOTES

The Soviet Kotlin-class guided-missile destroyer and merchant tanker that left the Mediterranean last Friday are continuing their slow progress down the coast of West Africa and could reach the Conakry area on Friday.

The destroyer will either augment the Soviet naval force off West Africa or relieve one of the warships now in the area. The Kresta II guided-missile cruiser, another Kotlin, and a tanker remain on station about 400 miles west of Pointe Noire, Congo. A landing ship and a tanker are at Conakry.

A Soviet submarine--probably a diesel-powered J-class cruise missile unit--reportedly entered Conakry harbor last Saturday and tied up next to the landing ship.

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France failed to persuade its EC partners to participate in a joint recognition of the Popular Movement as the government of Angola.

Most, if not all EC members, however, will probably follow France's lead and individually recognize the Popular Movement within the next few days. The Netherlands has already followed suit, and Denmark is expected to make its announcement today.

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The French Communist Party has announced that Secretary General Georges Marchais will not attend the Soviet party congress that opens next Tuesday.

Except for one instance of serious illness, this will be the first time that the top official of the French Communist Party has not been present at a Soviet party congress. Marchais said his decision "follows the line" of his party's congress held earlier this month. The French congress unanimously accepted Marchais' proposal to drop the phrase "dictatorship of the proletariat" and applauded his criticisms of the lack of human rights in the Soviet Union. A five-member delegation led by the secretary of the Central Committee will represent the French party at the Soviet congress.

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The Moroccans have so far provided no evidence to substantiate their charge that Algerian troops were involved in the fighting in Spanish Sahara last weekend.

Algeria's initial denial was somewhat equivocal, however, and reports from both Algiers and Rabat suggest that Algerian forces may have been involved. Neither side seems to want a wider dispute, but new incidents are likely.

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